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ABSTRACT

Various characteristics of and information about the area comprising the Plainedge School District in Nassau County, New York, are compiled in this survey. The information is collected in the following categories: census data, history, school district, other educational facilities, the library, community groups, recreation, other governmental services, business, tax rate and valuation, transportation, utilities, and other services. (WH)

ED 09700

THE PLAINEDGE COMMUNITY

A SURVEY

compiled by
LOUIS HERMAN, Assistant Director
and
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PLAINEDGE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
1060 HICKSVILLE ROAD
MASSAPEQUA, NEW YORK 11758

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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PREFACE

This survey of the Plainedge Community has been prepared for the use of students, homeowners (present and prospective) and businessmen who may need this information for various purposes.

This material should answer the most frequently asked questions about our Community and is current as of the date of publication.

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INTRODUCTION

Plainedge is not a political entity except to the extent that it is the name given to an area comprising the Plainedge School District. It consists of parts of unincorporated areas of North Massapequa, Bethpage, Seaford and Farmingdale all within the Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, New York.

Bounded on the south by Massapequa, on the east by Farmingdale on the west by Levittown and Island Trees, and on the north by Bethpage, Plainedge is approximately three square miles. It contains a total of 1,836 acres, 58% of which is residential and has a population of 24,320, with an average median family income of $13,870.

Plainedge is covered by U.S. Census tracts #5202 (pt.), 5203 (pt.), 5207 (pt.), 5208 (pt.), 5209, 5210 (pt.), 5211 (pt.) Only one tract (5209) is entirely within the school district; the others cross into other school districts. The Nassau-Suffolk Regional Planning Board has apportioned these tracts, allocating estimates of population to the appropriate districts.

ABSTRACT OF 1970 CENSUS DATA

	EDUCATION			INCOME				
	Med.yrs. School	H.S. Grads.	Coll. 3-4 yrs.	To $11,999	$12,000 14,999	To $14,999	$15,000 24,999	$25,000 50,000
Northedge (tract 5202	12.3%	62.3%	22.2%	36%	25.2%	61%	32.5%	5.9%
West (tract 5203)	12.3	61.9	18.2	33	25.1	58.1	36.2	5.7
Eastplain (tracts 5207	12.3	61.9	21.5	38	20.6	59	35.1	5.9
and 5208)	12.4	65.2	22.6	33	24.3	57	37.4	5.1
Southedge (tract 5209)	12.5	70.9	24.4	31	20	51	36.6	12.2
Picken (tract 5211)	12.3	65	16.7	37	22.7	60	32.3	7.8

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1) HISTORY OF PLAINEDGE

The name "Plainedge" is of English origin and is descriptive of the geographic region it included. The first Plainedge School District of about 150 years ago was the huge "edge of the plain" that stretched from Massapequa to Westbury. With the gradual break-up into smaller districts, the name "Plainedge" remained attached to its present locality.

All the land in the northern section of the district, north of Boundary Avenue and between Hicksville Road and Cedar Drive was purchased by Thomas Powell in 1688 and 1699. Land to the south of Boundary Avenue was obtained by William Frost in April, 1694. In 1690, the area west of Hicksville Road, the West Neck Purchase was secured for 18 joint purchasers who divided it among themselves. By 1800, the land had been broken up into smaller parcels that were farmed principally for hay. Later several thousand head of cattle roamed the "Plains." By the middle of the century poultry raising became an important industry with immense flocks of turkeys covering the fields.

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After the Civil War, cabbages for sauerkraut and cucumbers for pickles were important crops but had to be abandoned because of soil blight. Then potato farming flourished until an invasion of golden nematodes brought about prohibitive restrictions by the State Department of Agriculture in 1945. Between 1950 and 1960 the spread of housing developments in the area changed the character of Plainedge to about what it is today.

2) THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

In 1814 Oyster Bay and Hempstead townships were divided into school districts. The "fifteenth Plainedge District" extended northward from the "Brush plains" (near Jerusalem Avenue) to a line along Old Country Road (Hicksville-Plainview) and lay in the two townships. This original

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district included all of present-day Plainedge School District, and present day Bethpage School District, Island Trees School District (Town of Hempstead), and the southern part of Hicksville School District. In 1858, the first major change removed the Hicksville part of the district and most of Bethpage, leaving only the portion south of the railroad tracks. In 1910, the residents of the area between the Long Island R.R. and the A.T. Stewart line (along the Old Motor Parkway) petitioned to join the Central Park School District (Bethpage District #21). At that time, the Island Trees section declared itself independent and the western boundary of Plainedge was established at the town line.

The existing public school plant facilities consists of 5 elementary schools (Northedge, John H. West, Eastplain, Schwarting and Picken); two junior high schools (Sylvia Packard and Southedge); and the Plainedge High School.

Public school enrollment totaled 5,833 on the opening day of school, September 6, 1974. Enrollment is expected to decline to approximately 5200± by 1977/78. As a result of this decline, one elementary school facility, Baldwin Drive, has been leased to the Board of Cooperative Services which operates a satellite center for approximately 150 learning disabled children bused from various areas of Nassau County. This school-age population decline is consistent with trends in most other Nassau County communities.

The 1974/75 school budget is $14,321,595 of which $6,740,933 is raised through taxation, and $7,580,662 through state aid and other receipts. 62.4% of the budget is allocated for salaries, 7.8% for bonded indebtedness, 3.3% for transportation, 10% for operation and maintenance of plant, and 16.5% for miscellaneous expenses. The tax rate per $100 of assessed valuation is $16.44.

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The Board of Education, composed of 7 persons serving three-year terms of office and elected by the voters of the school district, formulates educational policy. It employs a staff of approximately 470 including about 330 professionals and 140 non-teaching personnel.

3) OTHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Many religious organizations maintain private and parochial schools in Nassau County. Within the school district proper, St. James Roman Catholic Church operates a parochial school for grades 1-8; just west of the school district boundary line, Maria Regina Catholic Church maintains a parochial school for grades 1-8.

The Plainedge School System maintains an extensive Adult Education Program. Various community groups also sponsor educational programs for members. The Town of Oyster Bay Recreation Department and the Nassau County Department of Parks and Recreation also conduct art, music, dance, arts and crafts, etc. classes for adults, children and teenagers at Town and County facilities located nearby, as well as at the Plainedge Public Library.

The Plainedge Public Library sponsors film programs, cooking, sewing, art classes, lecture/demonstrations, and book discussion groups. Consumer information bulletins are published regularly in its Newsletter.

There are many colleges and universities located in the County and the greater metropolitan area offering a variety of courses for adults. In the Fall of 1974 several college courses for adults will be offered at the Plainedge Public Library in cooperation with SUNY Stony Brook. C.W. Post will also present noncredit courses for adults at the Library.

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4) THE LIBRARY

The Library was created by a vote of taxpayers of the Plainedge School District on November 17, 1962. Library policies are decided by a Board of Trustees with five members, one of whom is elected each year for a five-year term. A provisional charter was granted by the Board of Regents on March 29, 1963 and an absolute charter on September 27, 1968.

On October 22, 1966 a referendum by district voters approved a bond issue of $656,500 for the purchase of land and the construction and equipping of the present building which was opened to the public on September 9, 1968. This 19,800 square foot facility which is located on a 1.2 acre plot on Hicksville Road, a main north-south highway, seats 110 readers, has a meeting-room capacity of 110, and a book-storage capacity of 100,000+ volumes.

The budget for the fiscal year 1974/75 is $354,855, of which $332,405 is derived from taxes. The tax rate for the Library is .809 per $100 of assessed valuation.

On July 1, 1974, the Library had 86,906 books, 5,495 paperbacks and 14,988 pamphlets. The audio-visual collection consisted of 1,901 phono-records, 766 cassettes, 158 8mm films and 27 16mm sound films and 106 items of framed art. Subscriptions to magazines and newspapers number 400 with back files of periodicals including 3,160 reels of microfilm. A variety of implements such as a rototiller, calculators, cassette players, sewing machines, etc. are also available for borrowing.

As of June 30, 1974 there were 20,559 registered borrowers: 15,765 adults and 4,794 children. Each month 90-120 new borrowers register for library cards. Circulation for the year 1973 was 241,065. Of the 53 libraries in the Nassau Library System, Plainedge ranks 22nd in population, 10th in books loaned per capita, and 12th in per capita expenditures for library materials.

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Through its membership in the Nassau Library System and the L. I. Libraries Resources Council, Plainedge borrowers have at their disposal resources of other libraries, public, university and private. A system of Direct Access permits book borrowing by personal presentation of library cards at other libraries in the County. The Nassau Library System has direct teletype communication with the State Library at Albany making its huge resources available to Plainedge patrons.

5) COMMUNITY GROUPS

According to the Plainedge Public Library's Directory of Community Organizations, 1973/74, there are nine churches and temples serving the people of Plainedge: four Protestant, three Jewish, and two Catholic. There are several other church denominations in the immediate surrounding areas; six civic associations, one veteran's organization, and eight fraternal and religious organizations exist. In addition to thirteen charitable organizations, there are seven political groups and two Senior Citizens clubs. The eleven youth groups include Boy and Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, 4-H Club, Police Boys Club and Little League.

6) RECREATION

Plainedge residents have convenient access to recreational and educational opportunities not only in Nassau-Suffolk but the greater metropolitan region as well. The 1,532 acre Bethpage State Park with its five golf courses, horseback riding and other facilities is minutes away and Jones Beach and Robert Moses State Parks are readily accessible. Bus service to Jones Beach is available along Hicksville Road in the summertime.

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County parks located in East Meadow (Eisenhower), Hicksville (Cantiague) and Wantagh maintain summer playground programs and offer extensive recreational facilities. Golf can be played at Eisenhower Park and Cantiague has a popular par-3 course as well as a driving range. Year-round ice skating is also available at Cantiague. The County now operates thirteen parks, nine museums, nature preserves, and other facilities. Cantiague and Wantagh also have Olympic-size swimming pools, and Wantagh has a 136-berth marina with launching ramp and fishing dock. The renowned County-operated Old Bethpage Restoration is also located minutes away. The Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, with a 16,500-seat arena and a 60,000-square-foot exhibition hall, with a wide variety of sports and cultural programs, is not too far away.

The Town of Oyster Bay maintains many parks and playgrounds including four Community Parks containing swimming pool complexes. Individual and family memberships are available for swimming pool use, with fees ranging from $33 to $88; special reduced rates for Senior Citizens ($15-$20) apply. Organized recreational programs are held during the first six weeks of the summer and free bus transportation is available for residents of respective park districts: Plainedge residents south of Boundary Avenue live in the Massapequa Park District, which operates the Marjorie R. Post Park on Merrick Road, Massapequa. Those north of Boundary Avenue live in the Bethpage Park District. All Plainedge residents may use the John J. Burns Park on Merrick Road, Massapequa, or the Ellsworth W. Allen Park at Heisser Lane and Motor Avenue, Farmingdale.

The Cultural and Performing Arts Division of the Town of Oyster Bay offers a variety of enrichment programs, such as cultural arts workshops, art exhibits and lecture/demonstrations conducted at community centers throughout the Town, and at the Plainedge Public Library.

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For the handicapped child and young adult, the Town also operates a Group Activities Program for the Handicapped (GAP), which includes counseling groups.

For the Senior Citizens, the Town operates 35 Senior Citizens Clubs, two of which meet in the Plainedge area. These clubs present programs such as arts and crafts, oil painting, sculpture, sewing, bridge, golf and woodworking. Information and referral services relating to social services are also provided.

Two daily newspapers, Long Island Press and Newsday, serve the area, all newspapers published in New York City are also available locally. Three weeklies, The Massapequa Post, The Massapequan Observer and the Bethpage Tribune, as well as a local Pennysaver, provide local coverage, which is also supplemented by several local radio stations and two TV stations Channel 21 (Garden City) and Channel 67 (Patchogue). All metropolitan radio and TV stations broadcasting from New York City can be received in the area. Three movie theatres are located within the community with many more within easy distance by car.

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7) OTHER MUNICIPAL AND GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES AND POLITICAL BOUNDARIES.

Fire services are provided by two volunteer tax-supported departments. The area south of Boundary Avenue is served by the North Massapequa Fire Department with one firehouse on Hicksville Road and one on Broadway, the area north of Boundary Avenue is served by the Bethpage Fire Department.

Postal services are divided among four different Post Offices. The area north of Boundary Avenue is served by the Bethpage Post Office (11714). The area south of Boundary Avenue and east of Hicksville Road is served by the Massapequa Post Office (11758). The area west of Hicksville Road and south of Gloria Road is served by the Seaford Post Office (11783).

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A small sector East of the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway between Boundary Avenue and Hempstead Turnpike is served by the Farmingdale Post Office (11735).

There are two hospitals within the Community. Mid-Island General Hospital, a proprietary institution with 219 beds and an emergency room is located on Hempstead Turnpike just west of the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway. Massapequa General Hospital, a proprietary facility with 122 beds, located on Hicksville Road near the Midlawn Shopping Center is the only osteopathic hospital on Long Island.

A nonprofit mental health center is located on Hicksville Road and Hempstead Turnpike. Services are available to low and middle income families with fees charged in accordance with ability to pay.

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Representatives of the Nassau County Office of Consumer Affairs are at the Library each Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to accept consumer complaints and offer advice.

A wide variety of social services are available to Plainedge residents from County, Town, and voluntary agencies. Appropriate referrals can be made through the Plainedge Public Library's Information and Referral Service, operated in conjunction with the Nassau County Department of Health and the Nassau Library System.

Plainedge is located within two Assembly Districts: the 10th (north of Hempstead Turnpike), and the 11th (south of Hempstead Turnpike). It is in the 5th Senatorial District and the 3rd Congressional District.

8) BUSINESS

Plainedge is essentially a community of 6,150 one-family residences and a small Town-sponsored apartment-type development for senior citizens on Hicksville Road. Within the district there are several shopping centers,

containing various retail businesses, such as a retail poultry outlet a motel, supermarkets, pharmacies, dry-cleaning establishments, barber shops, luncheonettes, restaurants, bars, bakeries, discount stores, an amusement park, etc. These are located along Hempstead Turnpike and down Hicksville Road.

There are five commercial banks and two savings banks located within the community: Chemical, First National City, Franklin National, Hempstead, Security National, Seaman's Bank for Savings, and the United Mutual Savings Bank.

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9) TAX RATE AND VALUATION

The total assessed valuation of the district for 1974/75 is $41,041,145. the current State equalization rate is 19%. The school tax rate for 1974/75 is $16.44 and the Library rate is .809 per $100 assessed valuation. Other County, Town and special district rates are:

SPECIAL DISTRICTS and SUMMARY
of the VARIOUS TAX RATES of the TOWN OF OYSTER BAY
for the TAX LEVY of 1974

Tax Bill Code No.		Rate per $100 Assessed Valuation
1	State Court, etc.	.071
	Nassau County	3.569
	Nassau Community College	.196
	General Town	.616
2	Building, Zoning and Memorial Day Highway	.072
3	Nassau County Police	2.360
4	Bethpage Water District	.245
	South Farmingdale Water District	.250
A	Public Parking District - Unincorporated	.173
23	Lighting District	.162
39	Nassau County Sewage Disposal District #3	.644
93	Garbage District #1	1.128
62	Park District - Bethpage	.410
59	Park District - Massapequa	.454
31	Fire District - Bethpage	.450
37	Fire District - North Massapequa	.577
D	Drainage District - Unincorporated	.255

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There is virtually no industrial and very little nonresidential development (except Hempstead Turnpike and small portions of Jerusalem Avenue and Hicksville Road) to help support the school tax base, with the result that the school tax rate is one of the highest in the Town. Moreover, the potential for further development is so minimal that there is little prospect that a substantial reduction in the school tax rate can be anticipated. Town and County tax rates can be considered moderate.

10) TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES AND OTHER SERVICES

Rail transportation is provided by the Long Island Rail Road (Metropolitan Transportation Authority) with nearby stations at Massapequa and Bethpage. There are no rail spurs in the Community. A parking permit for the stations may be obtained at the TOBAY Town Clerk for a $1.00 fee.

Main thoroughfares are Hempstead Turnpike (east-west), Hicksville Road (Route 107, north south), Southern State Parkway (east-west), and Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway (Route 135, north-south). The latter connects with the Long Island Expressway and the Northern State Parkway. Access to the community on Southern State Parkway is at Exit 29 (Hicksville Road) and on the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway at Hicksville Road (Route 107), and Boundary Avenue.

Since June 1973, the Metropolitan Suburban Bus Authority (a subsidiary of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority) has been providing a single, coordinated bus system for the entire County. Four bus routes traverse Plainedge with connections with the railroad and several large shopping complexes. There is a summer schedule of bus service to Jones Beach along Hicksville Road.

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Gas and electric service are supplied by the Long Island Lighting Company. N. Y. Telephone, a unit of the Bell System, provides telephone services. Water is supplied by the South Farmingdale Water District south of Boundary Avenue, and by the Bethpage Water District north of Boundary Avenue.

Plainedge is part of Nassau County's Sewer District Number 3, comprising an area of 105 square miles. Construction is now in progress and will take many years to complete. Presently, disposal is accomplished by the use of septic tanks and cesspools. Sewer trunk lines are presently being installed along Hicksville Road and Boundary Avenue.

Road maintenance and refuse disposal are provided by the Town of Oyster Bay. Police services are provided by the County: the 8th Precinct, with headquarters on Wantagh Avenue, Levittown, covers the area to Southern State Parkway, and the 7th Precinct, with headquarters on Merrick Road, Seaford, covers the rest of Plainedge.